IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 47 and 51 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-36 (canceled)

37. (previously presented) A method of displaying a three-dimensional shape model onto a two-dimensional plane, characterized in that a translucent polyhedron containing therein a whole or a part of the three-dimensional shape model is also displayed, wherein at least a depth of a control point on the three-dimensional shape model is controlled in accordance with a position of the translucent polyhedron.

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38. (canceled)

39. (previously presented) The method of displaying a three-dimensional shape model according to claim 37, wherein

a color of said polyhedron is determined based on a background color of the two-dimensional plane and on a color of the three-dimensional shape model.

40. (previously presented) A method of displaying a three-dimensional shape model onto a two-dimensional plane, wherein

a polyhedron containing therein a whole or a part of the three-dimensional shape model is also displayed, at least a depth of a control point on the three-dimensional shape model is controlled in accordance with a position of the polyhedron and a display mode of said three-dimensional shape model is changed in accordance with a relative positional relationship between a point designated by a pointing device and the position of the polyhedron.

41. (previously presented) An apparatus for displaying a three-dimensional shape model onto a two-dimensional plane, comprising:

means for calculating a polyhedron containing therein a whole or a part of the three-dimensional shape model;

a pointing device;

means for judging a relative positional relationship between a point designated by the pointing device and a position of said polyhedron; and

means for changing a display mode of said three-dimensional shape model in accordance with a result of the judging, wherein at least a depth of a control point on the three-dimensional shape model is controlled in accordance with the position of the polyhedron.

42. (canceled)

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43. (canceled)

Cont

44. (canceled)

45. (canceled)

46. (previously presented) A method of displaying a three-dimensional shape model onto a two-dimensional plane, comprising:

displaying a polyhedron containing therein a whole or a part of the three-dimensional shape model and having a center which is a center of gravity of the three-dimensional shape model contained therein; and

controlling, in accordance with a position of the polyhedron, at least a depth of a control point on the three-dimensional shape model.

47. (currently amended) The method of displaying a three-dimensional shape model according to claim 46, wherein

said polyhedron is a ~~sphere~~spheroid.

48. (previously presented) The method of displaying a three-dimensional shape model according to claim 46, wherein

said polyhedron is a regular polyhedron.

49. (previously presented) A method of displaying a three-dimensional shape onto a two-dimensional plane, comprising:

displaying a polyhedron containing therein a whole or a part of the three-dimensional shape model;

controlling, in accordance with a position of the polyhedron, at least a depth of a control point on the three-dimensional shape model; and

changing a display mode of said three-dimensional shape model in accordance with a relative positional relationship between a point designated by a pointing device and the position of the polyhedron.

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50. (previously presented) The method of displaying a three-dimensional shape model according to claim 49, wherein the display mode is set to a translation transformation when the point designated by the pointing device is positioned inside the polyhedron and the display mode is set to a rotation transformation when the point designated by the pointing device is positioned outside of the polyhedron.

51. (currently amended) The method of displaying a three-dimensional shape model according to claim 49, wherein

said polyhedron is a ~~sphere~~spheroid.

52. (previously presented) The method of displaying a three-dimensional shape model according to claim 49, wherein

said polyhedron is a regular polyhedron.

53. (previously presented) An apparatus for displaying a three-dimensional shape model onto a two-dimensional plane, comprising:

a calculation unit calculating a polyhedron containing therein a whole or a part of the three-dimensional shape model;

a pointing device; and

a judging unit judging a relative positional relationship between a point designated by the pointing device and a position of the polyhedron, wherein

a display mode of said three-dimensional shape model is changed in accordance with a result of the judging unit, and at least a depth of a control point on the three-dimensional shape model is controlled in accordance with the position of the polyhedron.

54. (previously presented) The apparatus for displaying a three-dimensional shape model according to claim 53, wherein the display mode is set to a translation transformation when the point designated by the pointing device is positioned inside the polyhedron and the display mode is set to a rotation transformation when the point designated by the pointing device is positioned outside of the polyhedron.

55. (previously presented) A method of displaying a three-dimensional shape model onto a two-dimensional plane, characterized in that a polyhedron having a center which is the center of gravity of the three-dimensional shape model and containing therein a whole or a part of the three-dimensional shape model is also displayed, wherein at least a depth of a control point on the three-dimensional shape model is controlled in accordance with a position of the polyhedron.